

## Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 JUSE-00 DRC-01 /134 W

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R 100945Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3998

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 852

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0521

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: TRIAL OF SWAPO DETAINEES

JOHANNES AND ZACHARIAS

1. TRIAL OF SWAPO DETAINEES AXEL JOHANNES AND LOT ZACHARIAS OPENED SEPTEMBER 9 IN GOBABIS BEFORE A REGIONAL MAGISTRATE. JOHANNES IS CHARGED WITH ASSISTING PERSONS TO LEAVE SOUTH WEST AFRICA ILLEGALLY AND ZACHARIAS WITH ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE THE TERRITORY ILLEGALLY. BRIAN O'LINN IS REPRESENTING THE DEFENDANTS. FOREIGN OBSERVERS ON THE OPENING DAY CONSISTED OF FSO EATON AND FREDERIC THORNBERRY REPRESENTING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND LAWYERS' COMMITTEE.

2. OPENING DAY OF TRIAL WAS DEVOTED TO TESTIMONY OF GEORGE ETENGA, ANOTHER SWAPO DETAINEE, APPEARING FOR PROSECUTION. ETENGA TOLD COURT THAT HE MET ZACHARIAS IN WALVIS BAY IN JULY OR AUGUST 1973. THEY LISTENED TO RADIO ZAMBIA ON UNCLASSIFIED

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ZACHARIAS' RADIO AND DECIDED TO GO TO ZAMBIA AFTER HEARING

RADIO ZAMBIA'S INVITATION TO NAMIBIANS TO COME TO ZAMBIA IF THEY WISHED AN EDUCATION. ARRIVING IN WINDHOEK ON DECEMBER 20, 1973, ZACHARIAS AND ETENGA WENT TO HOUSE OF BENJAMIN NAMALAMBO (A SWAPO DETAINEE RELEASED IN JULY 1974). THERE THEY MET JOHANNES. ACCORDING TO ETENGA, OHANNES ASKED HIM IF HE WISHED TO CROSS BORDER TO ZAMBIA VIA BOTSWANA. ETENGA SAID HE ANSWERED IN AFFIRMATIVE. LATER IN DAY UNDER DEFENSE CROSS EXAMINATION, ETENGA MAINTAINED THAT JOHANNES DID NOT OFFER VERBAL OR CONCRETE ASSISTANCE OR EVEN DISCUSS WITH HIM PLANS TO CROSS THE BORDER. SEVERAL DAYS LATER ZACHARIAS SECURED A CAR DRIVEN BY JOSEPH KAUPANGWA (ANOTHER SWAPO DETAINEE WHO APPARENTLY HAS BEEN RELEASED UNCHARGED) TO TAKE THE PAIR TO BORDER. THEY TRAVELED BY CAR TO AND BEYOND GOBABIA. THEY THEN LEFT CAR AND SET OUT ON FOOT FOR BOTSWANA BORDER. AFTER WALKING 4-5 DAYS, THEY SIGHTED SEVERAL HEREROS NEAR BORDER WHO TURNED THEM OVER TO SWA POLICE ON JANUARY 1, 1974.

3. IN HIS CROSS EXAMINATION, O'LINN BROUGHT OUT CONDITIONS OF ETENGA'S DETENTION FROM JANUARY 1 TO THE PRESENT. ETENGA SPENT MOST OF THIS PERIOD IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. ETENGA SAID HE WAS REPEATEDLY INTERROGATED BY SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE WHO REFUSED TO ACCEPT ABOVE ACCOUNT OF HIS PLANNED ESCAPE AS THE TRUTH. HE ASSERTED HE WAS SLAPPED "MANY TIMES" BY INTERROGATORS AND ON ONE OCCASION RECEIVED ELECTRIC SHOCK TREATMENT.

4. TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO END SEPTEMBER 10.  
HURD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRIALS, DETAINEES, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974CAPET00521  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740252-0462  
**From:** CAPE TOWN  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** smithrj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by smithrj>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NAMIBIA: TRIAL OF SWAPO DETAINEES JOHANNES AND ZACHARIAS  
**TAGS:** PINS, WA, SF, SWAPO, (JOHANNES, ALEX), (ZACHARIAS, LOT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005